

October 6-7, 2005

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## **Assessing payment adequacy and updating payments for outpatient dialysis services**

**ISSUE:** Are Medicare's payments for outpatient dialysis services adequate? How should payments be changed in 2007?

**KEY POINTS:** At this meeting, we will examine preliminary information about the adequacy of current aggregate outpatient dialysis payments. We will look at information about: 1) beneficiaries' access to care; 2) providers' capacity to meet demand; 3) quality of dialysis care; and 4) providers' access to capital.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should discuss the findings presented in the attached briefing materials. At the December meeting, we will present additional evidence about the adequacy of outpatient dialysis payments. The Commission's recommendation about updating payments for dialysis services will be included in the March 2006 report.

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